Registered Post and applications received upto the last date would be treated at par and the waiting list numbers of the applications would be decided by draw of lots. Gas connections will be released according to the seniority list thus prepared.

(e) No, Sir. The present procedure being followed by the Corporation does not represent any departure from the previous practice followed by the industry in drawing up waiting lists in virgin markets.

(f) By the end of this month.

Hardship to pensioners at Bhiwani Post office

2182. SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pensioners belonging to P&T Department and family pensioners of the deceased P&T employees drawing pension from Bhiwani Post Office (Haryana) are not being paid the increased grade relief due from January, 1985 onwards;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government propose to take against the officers responsible for this, due to which the pensioners/family pensioners are facing hardship?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare issued orders in this connection in the middle of July, 1985. The orders have been communicated to all Postmaster-Generals on 2-8-1985. Postmaster-General Ambala has directed to arrange to make payment at once. There is no delay in payment of relief by the Bhiwani Post Office.

Separate Telephone Corporations

2183. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Members of the Telecommunication Board, including the Chairman, who were on the interministerial Committee constituted to study in-depth the concept of the proposed separate Telephone Corporations to manage telephones in Bombay and Delhi are opposed to the idea of separate phone Corporations for each of these two metropolitan cities:

(b) whether Government have examined the merits and demerits of having one or separate corporations from the point of performance of the system in these two cities, if so the outcome thereof: and

(c) how long it is likely to take to make a start with the proposed Telephone Corporation systems in these two metropolitan cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c) The inter-Ministerial Committee has submitted its report. The Government is examining it. No decision has as yet been taken on the proposal for setting up a corporate body to develop and operate telephone services in Bombay and Delhi.

Efficient working of telephone system

2184. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether since the setting up of the Area Managers' institution in the Delhi Telephone District, any assessment of the working of the telephone system under their charge, prompt redressal of the subsribers' complaints and the letters received from them pointing out laxity on the part